

What is claimed is:

1. A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket, comprising:

first pivoting the scraper blade toward an inner wall of the basket, wherein the scraper blade lies in a direction opposite to a rotation direction of the basket, and wherein the scraper blade contacts the product over approximately the entire height of the wall of the basket;

scraping the product from the basket wall;

ceasing the pivoting of the scraper blade when the cutting edge reaches a desired position prior to touching the inner wall of the basket; and

pivoting the scraper blade away from the basket wall.

2. A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

lowering a scraper blade having a cutting edge from an initial position, prior to the first pivoting, until the scraper blade nearly touches a base of the centrifuge basket; and

raising the scraper blade away from the base of the centrifuge basket into the initial position after the scraper plate has been pivoted away from the wall.

3. A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein part of the scraper blade remains in the centrifuge basket when it is in its initial position.

4. A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the scraper blade is lowered while the centrifuge basket is decelerating from a spin-off speed to a clearing speed.

5. A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising holding the scraper blade near the inner wall for a period of time prior to being pivoted away from the wall.

6. A method for clearing the product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first pivoting has a pivoting direction that is the same as the rotation direction of the centrifuge basket.

7. A method for clearing the product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pivoting away has a pivoting direction that is opposite from the rotation direction of the centrifuge basket.

8. A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pivoting of the scraper blade is pneumatically controlled.

9. A method for clearing product from a centrifuge basket as claimed in claim 2, wherein the initial position is approximately 200 mm from the base of the centrifuge basket.

10. A clearing device for removing product from a centrifuge basket, comprising:

a clearing rod having an axis at least generally parallel to the rotational axis of the basket; and

a scraper blade, having a cutting edge, pivotably mounted on the clearing rod for pivoting about the axis of the clearing rod,

wherein the cutting edge, after the scraper blade is pivoted in a direction toward the inner wall of the centrifuge basket, extends over approximately the entire height of the centrifuge basket.

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11. A clearing device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the scraper blade has a concave face.

12. A clearing device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the scraper forms an angle with the inner wall of the centrifuge basket.

13. A clearing device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the angle is between 80° and 90°.

14. A cleaning device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the scraper blade has a nonstick coating.

15. A clearing device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the clearing rod is tubular and includes a nozzle for adding water to the centrifuge basket.

16. A clearing device as claimed in claim 10, further comprising means for displacing the clearing rod along its axis.

17. A centrifuge comprising:
a centrifuge basket having an inner wall and a central product discharge opening;

a closure cap for covering the central product discharge opening while the centrifuge is being operated; and

a clearing device for removing a product from the centrifuge basket including:

a vertically displaceable clearing rod having an axis; and
a scraper blade, having a cutting edge, mounted to the clearing rod,

wherein the scraper blade pivots about an axis of the clearing rod, and

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wherein the cutting edge, after the scraper blade is pivoted in a direction toward the inner wall of the basket, extends over approximately an entire height of the centrifuge basket.